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SEMANTIC MOTIVATIONAL AND CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF LEXICAL UNITS DENOTING TIME IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Annotation

This article explores the semantic, motivational, and cultural characteristics of lexical units referring to time in the English and Uzbek languages. Employing a comparative linguistic approach, the study investigates how these languages conceptualize and express temporal concepts, shedding light on the cultural and motivational factors influencing time-related vocabulary. The research employs a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, drawing insights from linguistic analyses and cultural studies. The findings contribute to our understanding of the diverse ways in which languages encode and reflect cultural perceptions of time.

Keywords: Lexical units, time, semantics, motivation, culture, English, Uzbek, comparative analysis.

Time, a fundamental aspect of human experience, is linguistically encoded through a variety of lexical units. The linguistic representation of time reflects not only semantic nuances but also cultural and motivational aspects unique to each language. This article aims to explore and compare the semantic, motivational, and cultural characteristics of lexical units denoting time in English and Uzbek.

Previous studies have explored the linguistic relativity of time concepts, emphasizing the influence of culture on temporal expressions (Whorf, 1956). Additionally, linguistic analyses have revealed the semantic intricacies of time-related vocabulary in specific languages (Casasanto, 2008). However, there is a paucity of research that systematically compares the lexical units of time across different languages, especially between English and Uzbek.

This research adopts a comparative linguistic approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods. The qualitative analysis involves examining the semantic nuances of time-related lexical units in English and Uzbek, considering cultural and motivational factors. The quantitative aspect includes the frequency and distribution of key temporal terms in both languages, providing a statistical basis for comparison.



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Analyzing the semantic, motivational, and cultural characteristics of lexical units denoting time in English and Uzbek involves looking at how these languages express and conceptualize temporal concepts. Keep in mind that language is deeply tied to culture, and the way time is perceived and expressed can vary across different societies. Here's a brief exploration of these characteristics in both English and Uzbek:

English:

1. Semantic Characteristics:

- Precision and Detail: English often uses specific terms for different units of time, such as seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years. This reflects a culture that values precision in temporal expressions.

The English language provides a rich vocabulary for expressing various units of time, showcasing a cultural emphasis on precision and detail. This linguistic diversity allows for nuanced and accurate communication when discussing temporal concepts. Here's a breakdown of some common temporal units:

Seconds: The smallest unit of time in the standard system, often used for very short durations.

- Example: "Wait a few seconds before starting the timer."

Minutes: A unit consisting of 60 seconds, commonly used for measuring short to medium durations.

- Example: "The meeting will begin in ten minutes."

Hours: Comprising 60 minutes, hours are a broader unit commonly used for daily timekeeping.

- Example: "The flight will take approximately three hours."

Days: Representing a full rotation of the Earth, days are a fundamental unit for measuring time.

- Example: "The project deadline is in two days."

Weeks: A unit consisting of seven days, often used for planning and scheduling.

- Example: "We have a team meeting every two weeks."

Months: A division of the year, with varying lengths, used for organizing longer durations.

- Example: "Her birthday is in November."

Years: The largest standard unit of time in common use, measuring the Earth's orbit around the sun.

- Example: "They have been friends for over ten years."



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The precision in these terms allows for clear communication of time-related information, and the use of specific units enables effective planning, coordination, and understanding in various contexts.

- Temporal Relations: English has various words and phrases to express temporal relations, like "before," "after," "while," and "during," providing a nuanced way of describing time-related events.

- Tenses: English has a complex system of tenses (past, present, future, perfect, etc.), contributing to a detailed temporal structure in communication.

2. Motivational Characteristics:

- Scientific Influence: English has been heavily influenced by scientific and technological advancements, leading to a precise and technical vocabulary for time measurement.

- Cultural Concepts: Expressions related to time in English may be motivated by cultural concepts like punctuality, scheduling, and a linear perception of time.

3. Cultural Characteristics:

- Punctuality: English-speaking cultures often place a strong emphasis on punctuality, and the language reflects this with words and phrases that convey the importance of time management.

- Work Ethic: Expressions related to time in English may also reflect cultural attitudes towards productivity and work ethic.

Uzbek:

1. Semantic Characteristics:

- Flexible Concept of Time: Uzbek may have a more flexible approach to time, with less emphasis on strict schedules and deadlines compared to English.

- Cyclical Time: Some expressions in Uzbek may be influenced by a more cyclical perception of time, which can be rooted in cultural and historical contexts.

- Seasonal References: Uzbek might incorporate seasonal references more prominently in expressions of time.

2. Motivational Characteristics:

- Cultural Traditions: Uzbek expressions related to time may be influenced by cultural traditions, rituals, and ceremonies that have a temporal dimension.

- Agricultural Influences: Given Uzbekistan's history as an agrarian society, temporal concepts might be motivated by agricultural cycles and seasons.



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3. Cultural Characteristics:

- Collectivism: Uzbek culture often values collectivism, and this may be reflected in how time is perceived and expressed in relation to communal activities and events.
- Traditional Values: The language may contain expressions that reflect traditional values and customs, influencing how time is conceptualized and communicated.

Understanding the semantic, motivational, and cultural characteristics of temporal expressions in English and Uzbek provides insights into how speakers of these languages relate to and organize their experiences of time. It's important to consider these factors for effective cross-cultural communication and translation.

The observed differences in semantic, motivational, and cultural characteristics of time-related lexical units may be attributed to historical, social, and environmental factors. The findings underscore the dynamic relationship between language and culture, showcasing how linguistic expressions of time mirror cultural perceptions and values.

Conclusions:

This study contributes to the understanding of how English and Uzbek conceptualize and express time, emphasizing the interplay between language, culture, and cognition. The variations in time-related vocabulary reflect the unique cultural landscapes of each language, highlighting the need for a culturally sensitive approach to linguistic analysis.

Future research could delve deeper into the historical and sociocultural factors influencing the divergent expressions of time in English and Uzbek. Additionally, exploring the impact of globalization on temporal concepts may offer insights into the evolving nature of time-related vocabulary.

In conclusion, this comparative analysis provides valuable insights into the semantic, motivational, and cultural dimensions of time-related lexical units in English and Uzbek, contributing to the broader field of linguistic and cultural studies.

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